

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

October 5, 2021
OTHERS PRESENT

David J. Owen, Chairman
Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice Chairman
William E. Carter
John D. Dickerson
Nathaniel Hall
Rick McVey
Steve Oestreicher

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Carla R. Smith, Clerk to the Board
Debra Ferrell, The Caswell Messenger
Matthew Hoagland, Planning Board Director

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, reconvened in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 5:00 pm in the Gunn Memorial Library.

Chairman Owen called the meeting back into session and tonight we will be speaking about redistricting. We will try not to get too deep into the weeds tonight. The County Manager has some slides to share to tell us why we have to do this and what the process will be.

CASWELL COUNTY REDISTRICTING:

County Manager, Bryan Miller, shared his screen with the Commissioners.

Chairman Owen asked everyone to speak loudly if they had questions since we did not have mics.

One of the things County Manager Miller shared with the Board was in their agenda packet. The 2020 Census Population and down below you see the 2010 population. This is for the existing districts and the proposed districts. We also have the 2020 minority population and the 2010 minority population. The last column shows that percentage of minorities in each district. From 2010 to 2020 we lost 370 people in District 1, 140 in District 2, 115 in District 3, 381 in District 4, and 5 people in District 5. What we have is a 691 person or resident difference between the largest and smallest district. Which is 16.6% and 14.2% respectively. Then County Manager Miller asked if there were any questions. Chairman Owen said he had a comment. That is what is triggering us to have to do this. The County Manager said that is because ideally what you want is for each district to have the same number of people or residents in that district. However, Mr. Miller said he thinks everybody realizes that is practically never going to happen. So, what you want to do is stay within a 5% margin of error between your districts. If you look at our current numbers, what we want to shoot for is 4547 people ideally in each district. The 5% deviation could give us as few as 4433 people in a district or as many as 4657 people in a district. If we can stay within those lines, that is what we are trying to do. When you get beyond 5%, that's a real grey area. When you cross the 10% threshold you drastically increase your chance of having any kind of legal action brought against you. This is because of the one person one vote rule. Commissioner Oestreicher asked what the even number of residents was. County Manager Miller replied 4547. This is the first glimpse of the Census data we received. This data is broken down by total then by race. You will see that we lost 4.1% in Caswell County population. Then

October 5, 2021

you can see the data for Black Non-Hispanic, White Non-Hispanic, Asian Non-Hispanic, Other Race Non-Hispanic, Multi-racial, and Hispanic or Latino Origin. The Board was given time to look over the Census data. This data was put together by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) almost as soon as the census data was put together. This is a part of a larger sheet that they had, showing every county in the Piedmont triad regional council's region. It shows the increases and decreases in the region. Then the County Manager shared another spreadsheet with the Board. It shows the data from the previous sheet, but one column was added. The column showed the number decrease, where the previous sheet showed the percent decrease. This shows how many people we actually lost. The sheet was enlarged for the Board to view easily. Bryan Miller shared another way to look at the data. This spreadsheet showed the total population in 2010, minority population in 2010, the percentage minority population in 2010, total population in 2020, minority population in 2020, percentage minority population in 2020, the difference and minority difference in each district. Those are for the current districts. Commissioner Oestreicher asked why it is minimum, but County Manager Miller said it's not minimum it is minority. County Manager Miller said he went through all this data to highlight that our districts have changed. The number of people in each district and the number of minorities you have in each district has changed. That highlights the need. The number of people or residents served by each Commissioner has changed. That's what triggers the redistricting because we are over that 10% threshold. That's what triggers the redistricting for the Board of Commissioners. Then Bryan Miller showed the current districts for the Commissioners from our Caswell County GIS system, and then switched over to the Ark GIS System to share the redistricting information they have gone through so far. These are our current districts, and it also highlights where each Commissioner lives within those districts. Then County Manager Miller showed the proposed districts. The Commissioners have said they would like some input in redefining the electoral districts. Each one of these blocks are a census tract. Each census tract has a different code of population, minority population, percentage of minorities living in each census tract. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if by census tract he means district. County Manager Miller said no. The census tracts are the blue outlines. The County Manager exported all the census tracts in Caswell County into an Excel file. With 12-point font, there were 22 pages of census tracts. This is incredibly detailed work that PTRC has entered in for us. Commissioner Carter asked about district 2 because it used to be like a snake going up into Providence, Yanceyville and over into Leasburg. What did they do kind of square it off? County Manager Miller said yes, then went back to the map of the current districts. When you look at electoral districts, they should serve people with similar interests. So, to serve people with similar interest, the most common and prevalent thought is that those districts should be compact and together, not spread out all throughout the county. That's the reason why when PTRC went back in to do these they made more compact districts than they did before. Commissioner Carter said district 2 is blue and it looks like Commissioner Hall is losing some of his area but picking up some of Yanceyville. County Manager Miller said that is right. Then Commissioner Carter asked about the red district. The County Manager said the red district is Commissioner Oestreicher's because he would live in that district. So Oestreicher will have Leasburg, South Yanceyville, and Prospect Hill. Commissioner Jefferies lost some of his to Commissioner Oestreicher. Bryan Miller said yes, but what's important to know is we're not talking about land mass. We're talking about population. Redistricting is about serving a population and not land mass. So even though District 5 seems larger than other districts, it really has 140 more people in that district than the

smallest district that we have, which does fall within that 5% deviation from the other districts. Commissioner Carter then asked if he was the only Commissioner affected by the redistricting. The County Manager said he thinks it affects every Commissioner because every Commissioner's district changed somewhat. Now having said this, the County Manager would like to get the Commissioners priorities. So, what the County Manager propose the Board do is give your priorities for redistricting. If you want to say compact districts that's fine. Or to preserve the 2 minority districts, Mr. Miller thinks that was something Court ordered back in 1989. That was an agreement between Caswell County, the Board of Education, the Board of Elections, and the court system to create the districts kind of like we see them today and to preserve the minority districts. The County Manager thinks what he has heard to some degree is that each Commissioner currently represent the district and has strong ties to those districts. Are there any other priorities that the Board has for redistricting? The County Manager said he will take these priorities back to PTRC and say here is a list of priorities. We know what you have proposed. The Board has looked at these and take these priorities and reconfigure them in the way you can. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the priorities needed to be in writing, and he County Manager said yes. Then County Manager Miller asked if the Board knew of any priorities they had. Chairman Owen said for him one is compactness. With what they have done, it makes it easier for a commissioner when they are running in that district. They have more defined lines. Commissioner Carter's district runs from up in Providence down to Leasburg. Commissioner Carter said before I had West Yanceyville up to Boyscout Camp Road to it changed over to Mr. Hall's district. Carter's District also included Foster Road to Park Springs Road. Carter said he is losing that and Highway 150 back to Yanceyville, which they propose will all go into Mr. Hall's district. Commissioner Oestreicher said he likes the idea of compactness. If you look at his district it is the full length of the county, and the way the roads are laid out that is not easy to do without driving a very convoluted path. So Oestreicher likes that aspect of the new district lines. Commissioner Carter said he don't have any problem with the new district lines. He doesn't know if he will run again or not, but if he did choose to run again, he wouldn't be able to if he and Mr. Hall were in the same district. If they could change it back like it was and leave Highway 150 back to Yanceyville in District 2 and Foster Road to Park Springs back in Carter's District. Carter doesn't mind about the southern end because Commissioner Oestreicher's District picks up on the end of the county. So, everything east of Main Street falls into Commissioner Jefferies district and the golf course. Commissioner Oestreicher said to continue, he would be happy to have less of District 5 in the Yanceyville area and more in the Anderson township area. Commissioner Carter said Oestreicher would lose the Anderson area in the proposed districts, but Oestreicher said he has some really strong ties with Anderson. The County Manager asked if each commissioner would give him their priorities in writing. Commissioner Hall suggested since all the Commissioners were in attendance, even if they do it orally, have someone to take the notes and go ahead and get that done. We are working with some time constraints. If we do it orally, then the Board can agree or disagree on how we move forward. Commissioner Hall said he likes the compactness. Commissioner Hall asked who was in District 2 currently and the County Manager said that is Commissioner Carter's district. Commissioner Hall said he had a resident come to him and ask what district they were in., and he told them they were in District 3, so they went to District 3's Commissioner. The person was told they were not in that district, so they came back to Commissioner Hall and told him that he didn't know what he was talking about. Surely Commissioner Hall didn't because when he looks

at this map, District 2 runs all around this map. Commissioner Oestreicher said he had the exact same problem with District 5. Mr. Hall said so if we could get a general consensus on how and what we want to do, we could do that on a pretty short order. The County Manager said so what he has heard from the Board thus far is compact districts. Let's assume that the Board as a whole agrees to move Mr. Carter back into the area he was in the current district. Then it will just be a matter of getting the numbers back in shape. The County Manager said he just wants everybody to understand that the lines are going to change. You may not be representing the same geographical locations you have represented before. The boundary lines are going to change. Commissioner Oestreicher said let us deal with the elephant in the room. District 2, in the proposed districts, has no one currently in this room in that district. That has to be dealt with. That is the most overwhelming issue we got. Commissioner Oestreicher said he has given his priorities, but he would be happy to give them again. Commissioner Oestreicher said his are pretty simple. Definitely for compactness, and he would like less of Yanceyville and more of Anderson. Or more rural or farming and less urban parts. Commissioner Carter said the only thing on his is that 8 mile stretch of Yanceyville up Highway 150. Carter said he see where his district used to go up to Providence, but it won't now. It will be shifting back to the southwest. Mr. Hall had that before, but Mr. Carter thinks he is losing that part. Commissioner Carter said before Commissioner Hall had Old Farm Apartments. The County Manager said so what I'm hearing is that every district needs to have current representation and compact districts. Commissioner Oestreicher said he has heard this a lot. It's the point that Mr. Hall made. It's not real obvious what district they are in. It's very confusing. Certainly, with the way the lines are now. Commissioner Oestreicher said he also heard during another topic, people say that they live on a rural road and the guy across the street is in a different district than I am. So, if we could maybe move some of these lines to the major highways and use that as dividing lines. The County Manager said that is what PTRC tried to do this time. They tried to stay along the highway lines. But you can see when I click on the census tracts, they don't all run along roads. Commissioner Oestreicher said maybe what he is focusing on is the blue area that juts into District 5. If that would go up that highway it would take some of the game land out of District 5. If it makes that more compact, then move some of that down to Anderson. Commissioner Oestreicher said one way to do this is to come up and draw a line with our finger. Chairman Owen said we have to remember that population is what rules this roost. Commissioner Carter said they took the snake out from District 2. Commissioner Hall said one of the things that they may have considered, although he has not stayed up with all of the laws in North Carolina, through some court cases they use to call this gerrymandering. The courts would say where all possible to stay away from that. That's another constraint and earlier we didn't just deal with the census districts. Someone just sat down and drew some lines. Well, dealing with the census districts on this proposed map and dealing with the constraints of gerrymandering. Hall remembers not this time, but the time before we had a district that ran from Charlotte to Durham. What was happening was they were trying to protect an elected person and get in population. Anybody can see that didn't make a whole lot of sense, but it was a district. Commissioner Carter asked if they are redistricting in every county. The County Manager said he thinks it is only in 30 counties that still elect Commissioners. Mr. Carter then asked will this affect the Senate and House districts. The County Manager said they will have to do those things too. Commissioner Oestreicher asked why the Board of Education's districts would be different. The County Manager said the Board of Commissioners draw the Board of Commissioners' districts

or approves the Board of Commissioners' districts and the Board of Education approves the Board of Education's districts. Commissioner Oestreicher said does the Board of Education's districts follow the same population rules. The County Manager said yes. Commissioner Oestreicher said theoretically if we do this right, there's no reason they couldn't use the same districts. Commissioner Hall said but to put in politics they want to protect the seats of their board members. Then the County Manager showed the Board of Education's districts in comparison to the Board of Commissioners districts. The County Manager said he is working with Dr. Carter, Superintendent, on redistricting. Chairman Owen asked if there is anything else as far as priorities in this. Chairman Owen said what he also wants the County Manager to do is give a timeline on this deal, so we know what we are working with. If we proceed because there are time constraints here. The County Manager said working with any outside agency, you have to work on their time frame too. What Mr. Miller would hope is that we can have something back and be ready to put in front of the Board by our second meeting in October. If not then definitely by the first meeting in November, which is on the 1st. The County Manager would like to provide this data and information to the Board of Elections with ample time for them to do the things that they need to. We need to present them with the resolution from the Board of Commissioners and we need to present them with the GIS data. The GIS data is basically what PTRC is working on for us. Commissioner Oestreicher said which is the population data. County Manager Miller said there is some work on the back end after the Board of Commissioners is finish with what they want to do and said these are going to be our boundaries. There is some work on the back end and that will give us about 2 weeks to get it to the Board of Elections by the November 17th deadline. If we can get it by the second meeting in October, Mr. Miller thinks that would be preferable. Commissioner Oestreicher asked how soon the County Manager could process the comments you requested. The County Manager said he will have them to PTRC by tomorrow. Commissioner Carter said the filing period is in December. Chairman Owen said yes, but it would change depending on what the State says. The State would push the primaries further down, which could push filing further back. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if we needed to have another meeting before the 18th. The County Manager said he didn't know when they would get back to him because there is a lot of work that goes into redrawing these lines. The last time it took a month from the time we initially contacted them until the time they had everything ready. Now this time most of the heavy lifting has been done. This is the Boards decision where they redraw the electoral district lines. Commissioner Oestreicher said as long as we conform to the 5% deviation. The County Manager said they will do their best to get it to fit the priorities that the Board has given. Commissioner Oestreicher said his recommendation is that as soon as the County Manager gets that back, that the Board reconvene and take a peek at it. Then the Board can finalize it on the 18th. The County Manager said we will call a special meeting as soon as we get something back in hand. The County Manager said we will schedule a public hearing accordingly. A public hearing is not required, but it is a good idea in this case. Elections this year is only for the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Milton. Chairman Owen said we will proceed when we get something back, and Commissioner Oestreicher asked that the information be sent out like this time. The County Manager said as soon as we receive it, we will send it out. Commissioner Hall said after we decide on the maps, we might want to take another look at precincts and polling stations. An example was that there were two different ballots in Prospect Hill. One for district 5 and one for district 2 in the same precinct. That created confusion because of these gerrymandering lines. Commissioner Hall said he thinks this is what

PTRC was trying to address. They won't be able to address all the issues, so there will still be a few people confused. Commissioner Carter said that was the case in Yanceyville too because part of Yanceyville voted in his district, Mr. Hall's district and Mr. Jefferies district. Commissioner Oestreicher said whatever we come up with then we can look at making adjustments to the precincts. We will try to keep that in mind. Precinct 4 was both at the crossroads, which is Casville. The most dangerous place in the county, and it's a problem. Those are things that are not directly related, but we should consider since we got the door open.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Oestreicher made a **motion** at 5:48 pm to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McVey and the motion **carried unanimously**.

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

David J. Owen
Chairman

Attachments:

October 5, 2021

Proposed District	2020 Total Population	2020 Minority Population	Percent Minority
1	4,516	1,228	27.19%
2	4,514	1,296	28.71%
3	4,514	2,371	52.53%
4	4,546	2,350	51.69%
5	4,646	1,455	31.32%
Total	22,736	8,700	38.27%

Existing District	2010 Total Population	2010 Minority Population	Percent Minority
1	4,537	1,119	24.66%
2	4,837	1,385	28.63%
3	4,973	2,763	55.56%
4	4,697	2,650	56.42%
5	4,675	1,289	27.57%
Total	23,719	9,206	38.81%

2020 Est Pc Change (201 Percent Change)

4167	(370)	-8.2%
4697	(140)	-2.9%
4858	(115)	-2.3%
4316	(381)	-8.1%
4680	5	0.1%

*2020 Blocks do not align exactly with 2010 blocks, so the sum of this column does not equal 22,736

Difference in largest and smallest district	691
	16.6%
	14.2%

Estimated Population by Race & Ethnic Origin, 2010-2020



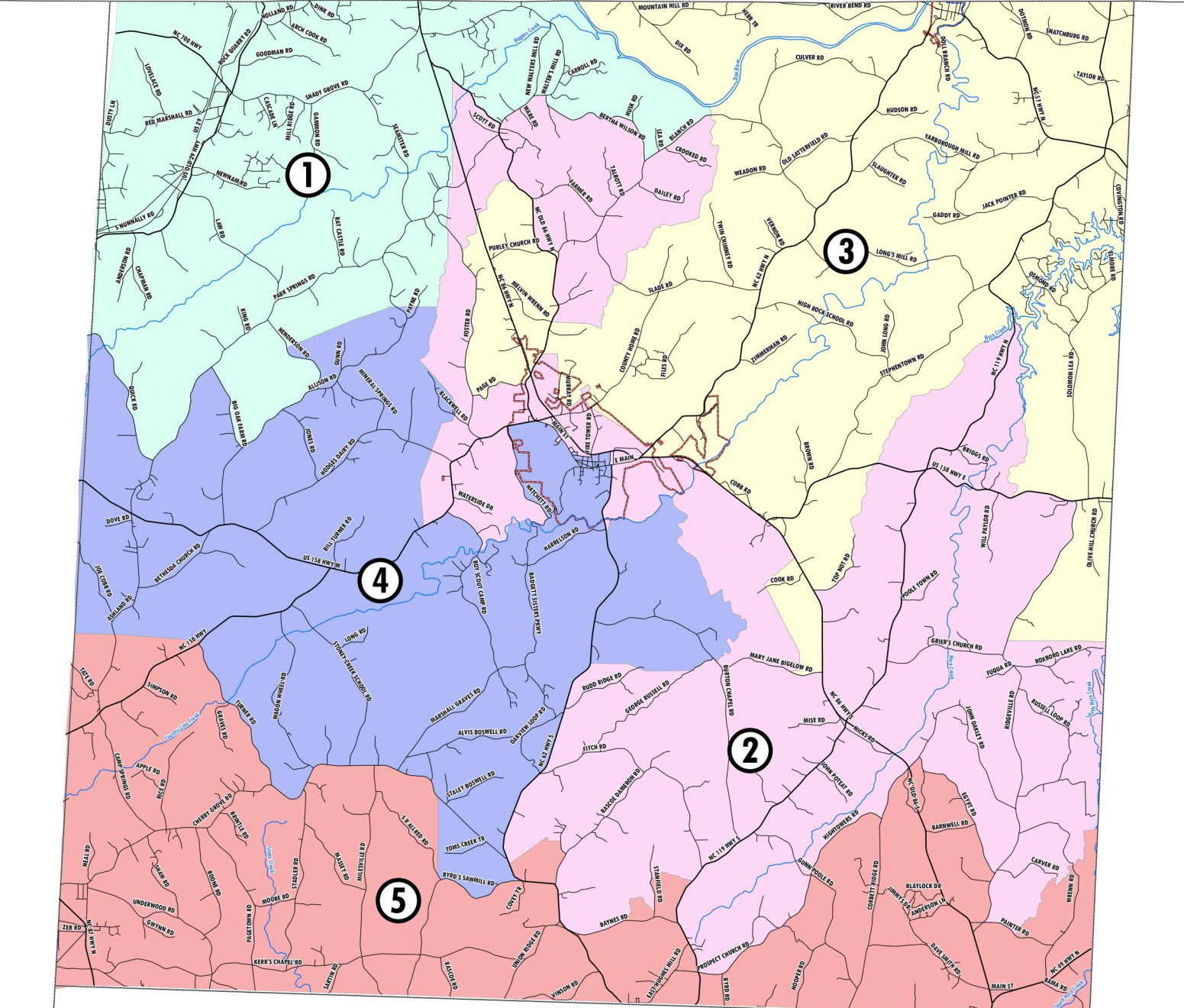
	2010 Census	2020 Census	% Change, 2010-2020	Population Distribution by Race, 2020
Alamance County				
Total	151,131	171,415	13.4%	
White, Non-Hispanic	101,718	102,487	0.8%	59.8%
Black, Non-Hispanic	27,985	33,555	19.9%	19.6%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	1,806	2,811	55.6%	1.6%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	808	1,432	77.2%	0.8%
Multi-Racial	2,175	6,427	195.5%	3.7%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	16,639	24,703	48.5%	14.4%
Caswell County				
Total	23,719	22,736	-4.1%	
White, Non-Hispanic	14,513	14,036	-3.3%	61.7%
Black, Non-Hispanic	7,991	6,804	-14.9%	29.9%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	60	61	1.7%	0.3%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	87	135	55.2%	0.6%
Multi-Racial	324	698	115.4%	3.1%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	744	1,002	34.7%	4.4%
Davidson County				
Total	162,878	168,930	3.7%	
White, Non-Hispanic	133,486	129,487	-3.0%	76.7%
Black, Non-Hispanic	14,269	15,839	11.0%	9.4%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	1,957	2,449	25.1%	1.4%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	880	1,199	36.3%	0.7%
Multi-Racial	1,878	6,063	222.8%	3.6%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	10,408	13,902	33.6%	8.2%
Davie County				
Total	41,240	42,712	3.6%	
White, Non-Hispanic	35,257	34,809	-1.3%	81.5%
Black, Non-Hispanic	2,552	2,413	-5.4%	5.6%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	228	277	21.5%	0.6%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	151	225	49.0%	0.5%
Multi-Racial	556	1,613	190.1%	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	2,496	3,375	35.2%	7.9%
Forsyth County				
Total	350,670	382,590	9.1%	
White, Non-Hispanic	205,934	208,126	1.1%	54.4%
Black, Non-Hispanic	89,533	93,738	4.7%	24.5%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	6,427	9,179	42.8%	2.4%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	1,746	2,834	62.3%	0.7%
Multi-Racial	5,255	14,025	166.9%	3.7%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	41,775	54,688	30.9%	14.3%
Guilford County				
Total	488,406	541,299	10.8%	
White, Non-Hispanic	265,228	255,640	-3.6%	47.2%
Black, Non-Hispanic	156,982	179,423	14.3%	33.1%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	19,059	28,719	50.7%	5.3%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	3,387	4,984	47.2%	0.9%
Multi-Racial	8,924	20,381	128.4%	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	34,826	52,152	49.8%	9.6%



	2010 Census	2020 Census	% Change, 2010-2020	Population Distribution by Race, 2020
Montgomery County				
Total	27,798	25,751	-7.4%	
White, Non-Hispanic	17,875	16,504	-7.7%	64.1%
Black, Non-Hispanic	5,182	4,192	-19.1%	16.3%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	439	391	-10.9%	1.5%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	121	125	3.3%	0.5%
Multi-Racial	255	615	141.2%	2.4%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	3,926	3,924	-0.1%	15.2%
Randolph County				
Total	141,752	144,171	1.7%	
White, Non-Hispanic	115,205	108,354	-5.9%	75.2%
Black, Non-Hispanic	7,979	8,592	7.7%	6.0%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	1,406	2,158	53.5%	1.5%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	834	1,088	30.5%	0.8%
Multi-Racial	1,630	4,928	202.3%	3.4%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	14,698	19,051	29.6%	13.2%
Rockingham County				
Total	93,643	91,096	-2.7%	
White, Non-Hispanic	68,744	64,218	-6.6%	70.5%
Black, Non-Hispanic	17,529	16,611	-5.2%	18.2%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	423	493	16.5%	0.5%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	448	598	33.5%	0.7%
Multi-Racial	1,340	3,090	130.6%	3.4%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	5,159	6,086	18.0%	6.7%
Stokes County				
Total	47,401	44,520	-6.1%	
White, Non-Hispanic	43,447	39,609	-8.8%	89.0%
Black, Non-Hispanic	1,897	1,619	-14.7%	3.6%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	125	158	26.4%	0.4%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	184	228	23.9%	0.5%
Multi-Racial	494	1,450	193.5%	3.3%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	1,254	1,456	16.1%	3.3%
Surry County				
Total	73,673	71,359	-3.1%	
White, Non-Hispanic	62,611	57,771	-7.7%	81.0%
Black, Non-Hispanic	2,644	2,413	-8.7%	3.4%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	339	370	9.1%	0.5%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	240	289	20.4%	0.4%
Multi-Racial	684	2,020	195.3%	2.8%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	7,155	8,496	18.7%	11.9%
Yadkin County				
Total	38,406	37,214	-3.1%	
White, Non-Hispanic	33,022	30,357	-8.1%	81.6%
Black, Non-Hispanic	1,165	1,071	-8.1%	2.9%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	71	142	100.0%	0.4%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	82	150	82.9%	0.4%
Multi-Racial	317	1,112	250.8%	3.0%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	3,749	4,382	16.9%	11.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial Census of Population & Housing, 2010 and 2020.

CASWELL COUNTY - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICTS
EXISTING DISTRICTS



CASWELL COUNTY - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICTS
PROPOSED REDISTRICTING 2021

